THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Special Operation Group of the Shillong City Police arrested five persons on the 7th and 8th January, 1995, in Shillong and seized 3.5 Kg. of sodium Di-Uranate (Yellow Cake) The destination of this material is not yet known.

(c) Yes, Sir. The material confiscated by the police authorities of Maharajganj (U.P.) was analysed as "RESIN" — an organic compound and not uranium. The Meghalaya police have registered a case under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Visit of US team to Indian Atomic Plants

589. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US team had visited Tarapur plant and other plants in the recent past:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) Dr. Ivan Selin, Chairman, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) heading a delegation visited India from 12-17 February, 1995 at the invitation of Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Government of India. The US delegation made a reciprocal visit after meetings in US in October/November, 1994 when a delegation led by Chairman, AERB visited the US. Following the visit of the US Energy Secretary to India in July last year and her meeting with Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Government of India, a dialogue was opened between the US and India on cooperation in nuclear safety. The USNRC delegation visited Narora Atomic Power Station, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Tarapur Atomic Power Station where they had discussions with senior officials of AERB, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and BARC. Areas of mutual interest, including generic fire safety issues, and other safety-related issues were covered during these discussions.

Use of low curished uranium in Tarapur Atomic power plant

590. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether low enriched uranium is proopsed to be used at Tarapur Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme, indicating its technical feasibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The reactors are originally designed to use Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) of 2.4% average enrichment, (maximum 2.66% enriched). This is already being used at Tarapur. The material, in the form of Uranium Hexafluoride gas, is used to fabricate the fuel bundles.

Import of fuel for taps draw China

591. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently enterd into an agreement with China for the supply of enriched uranium for Tarapur reactor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;